INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PC1/IB2004/051451

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G11B7/0045 G11B7/013 G11B7/24 G11B7/24 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G11B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages X US 5 776 656 A (SHINKAI ET AL) 1,3 7 July 1998 (1998-07-07) claim 1; example 1 X EP 0 676 751 A (MITSUI TOATSU CHEMICALS, 1,2 INCORPORATED; MITSUI CHEMICALS, INC) 11 October 1995 (1995-10-11) claims 1,2,4 1 - 3PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN Α vol. 1996, no. 08, 30 August 1996 (1996-08-30) & JP 08 111034 A (MITSUI TOATSU CHEM INC), 30 April 1996 (1996-04-30) abstract Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 17/02/2005 7 February 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Stabel, A

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